

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ATHENS 07261 191235Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5589

S E C R E T ATHENS 7261

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS/ PFOR PLOS TU GR

SUBJECT: TURKISH SEISMIC VESSEL IN THE AEGEAN

REF: ATHENS 7260

1. IN THE DISCUSSION REPORTED REFTEL, BITSIOS SAID TO ME AT ONE POINT THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL WITH THE SECRETARY WHEN HE WAS IN WASHINGTON IN APRIL THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE TURKS WOULD SEND THEIR VESSEL TO CONDUCT SEISMIC RESEARCH -- WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED ONCE AGAIN AS "EXPLORATION" -- OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN A DISPUTED AREA IN THE AEGEAN. BITSIOS SAID THAT THE SECRETARY HAD AGREED WITH HIM IN WASHINGTON THAT SUCH AN ACT BY TURKEY WOULD INDEED BE A "PROVOCATION" OF GREECE, AND BITSIOS SAID THAT HE AND THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WERE "RELYING VERY MUCH" ON THAT POSITION OF THE SECRETARY.

2. THE REST OF OUR CONVERSATION, AND MY URGING THE GREATEST RESTRAINT AND MODERATION TO THE GREEK GOVERNMENT ON THIS POINT, IS REPORTED IN REFTEL.
KUBISCH

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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